

I CLAIM

1. A computer system, comprising:

a plurality of data processing channels requiring data input and generating data output;

a hard disk drive adapter connected to each of said plurality of data processing channels; and

a single hard disk drive connected to said hard disk drive adapter;

said hard disk drive adapter forming an intermediate adapter for transferring data between said plurality of data processing channels and said single hard disk drive.

2. The computer system according to claim 1, which further comprises a data storage device connected to said hard disk drive adapter for transferring data via said hard disk drive adapter in accordance with a given communications protocol.

3. The computer system according to claim 2, wherein the given communications protocol used by said data storage device is any present or future data storage device communications protocol.

4. The computer system according to claim 1, wherein said intermediate adapter is configured to transfer the data from each of said plurality of data processing channels to said hard disk drive, substantially without using any processing channel resources.

5. The computer system according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of data processing channels are central processors each with a hard disk drive connector communicating with said intermediate adapter via cables or connectors.
 6. In a computer system with a plurality of data processing channels having processors generating data output, a data storage and transfer system, comprising:
 - a data storage device having a data storage capacity at least as large as a maximum storage capacity required by the channels of the plurality of data processing channels combined, and having parts each assigned to a respective one of the plurality of data processing channels;
 - an intermediate adapter connected between the plurality of data processing channels and said data storage device for transferring data between the data processing channels and said data storage device;
 - said intermediate adapter including a device for distributing the data being transferred between said data storage device and the plurality of data processing channels; and
- wherein said intermediate adapter connects each of the plurality of data processing channels to a respective said part of said data storage device.

7. The computer system according to claim 6, wherein said intermediate adapter comprises means for calculating an actual storage location on the data storage device assigned to a respective one of the data processing channels.

8. The computer system according to claim 6, wherein the parts of the data storage device assigned to the plurality of data processing channels are physical partitions.
9. The computer system according to claim 6, wherein said data storage device is a partitioned hard disk drive.
10. The computer system according to claim 6, which comprises a plurality of cables or connectors connecting channels of said intermediate adapter to said data storage device.
11. The computer system according to claim 10, wherein said data storage device a fixed or removable data storage device.
12. The computer system according to claim 6, wherein said intermediate adapter is configured to be entirely transparent to an operation of the data processing channel and said data storage device.